

Holmes/Wyne Elected UAP/VP in Landslide

Undergraduate Voter Turnout Up 11 Percent From Last Year's UA Spring Elections

By Mei-Hsin Cheng
STAFF REPORTER

With voter turnout up 11 percent, Martin F. Holmes '08 and Ali S. Wyne '08 won the Undergraduate Association elections for president and vice president in a landslide victory.

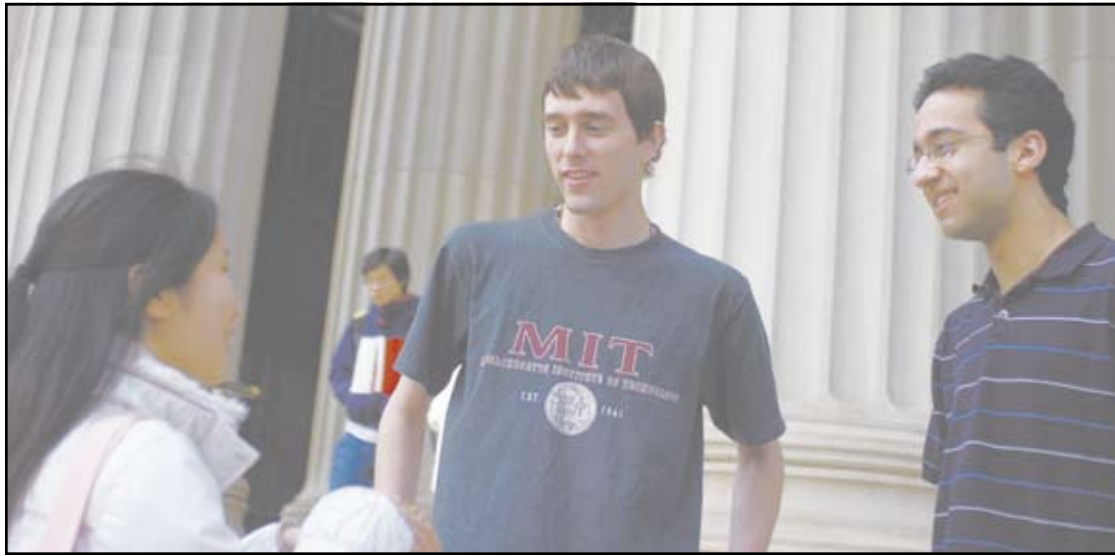
Holmes and Wyne captured 1,019 out of a total 1,847 votes (55 percent). Holmes and Wyne will replace UA P/VP Andrew T. Lukmann '07 and Ruth F. Miller '07.

Amidst the controversy of the 2008 Class Council race, Phi T. Ho '08 and Rajat Bhalla '08 were elected president and vice president, respectively. Vivian Tang '09 and Deepa Mokshagundam '09 won the 2009 Class Council presidential and vice presidential elections, although their running mates were not elected. Jason A. Scott '10 and Laura H. Han '10 won the uncontested 2010 Class Council presidential and vice presidential elections.

A table of results, including vote totals, is available on page 11.

Holmes, Wyne optimistic

Holmes, who is the president of the 2008 Class Council, said that he and Wyne are "extremely excited" and "extremely pleased with the election results." Holmes said that



Undergraduate Association President-elect Martin F. Holmes '08 and Vice President-elect Ali S. Wyne '08 talk with Wendi Zhang '08 on Thursday.

he looks "forward to making a lot of positive changes and protecting a lot of things in MIT that make it unique compared to other colleges," including Residence Exploration and independent dining options.

Wyne, vice chair of the UA Senate and a *Tech* opinion staff writer, said that he and Holmes have established their priorities for the next few months, including improving SafeR-

ide by starting a Harvard Bridge SafeRide and expanding the size of the Cambridge West shuttles.

Holmes also described the immediate goal of creating an Institute holiday for the Career Fair. Holmes said that they want to make a Career Fair holiday so that students have "more time to prepare" for the Career Fair. Holmes said he hopes that MIT will benefit by encouraging students and

companies to become more involved in the Career Fair, eventually resulting in "greater funding opportunities." The Career Fair holiday is not likely to happen this coming year, but "2008 has a good chance," Holmes said. However, the Registrar's Office already has a schedule of key dates, including student holidays,

Elections, Page 11

MIT Pistol Team Claims National Championship

Engineers Beat Out Military Schools For Big Win

By Travis Johnson
SPORTS EDITOR

Here's something to brag about over spring break: MIT students have better aim with a pistol than their counterparts at the Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine Academies.

The Engineers captured their second national championship in three years by beating the four aforementioned academies, one other military school, and four civilian schools in a three-day competition held last week at West Point and sponsored by the National Rifle Association.

The final scores in the open division, which includes both male and female competitors, was MIT

(6,372), Army (6,365), and Navy (6,322). MIT's top individual performers were co-captains Daipan Lee '07, who placed third overall, and Diana Nee '07, who placed third among women.

MIT students do so well in pistol because "they are focused, disciplined, detail-orientated, and exceptionally competitive," Head Coach of Pistol Will Hart Jr. said in an e-mail. Nee concurred and said in an e-mail, "We are used to exercising concentrated focus and self-discipline, which are both really important qualities to be a good shooter."

Teamwork is another of the Engineers' advantages. "The MIT pistol team is always, by far, the most tightly-knit team at nationals," Nee said

Pistol, Page 13

Cal State Faculty Could Soon Go on Strike

By Lisa Munoz
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Faculty members of California State University, the nation's largest four-year university system, overwhelmingly authorized a strike on Wednesday after nearly two years in which they and the administration failed to negotiate a contract succeeding one that expired in July 2005.

An arbitrator will continue working with administration officials and the California Faculty Association, the union representing some 24,000 Cal State instructors, to end the deadlock, which centers on salaries. But if meetings over a 10-day "quiet period" now break down, a strike could begin as early as next month, said the union's president, John Travis.

The faculty walkout would be the largest in the history of American higher education, although the union says it would be a rolling strike — that is, it would begin on one of the system's 23 campuses and last there for two days, then move on to another campus for two days, and so on. In this way,

Cal State, Page 12



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Cai P. GoGwilt '10 plucks the strings of his cello during the intermission of the MIT Symphony Orchestra's concert last Friday, March 16. See more photos and a review on page 8.

Because of the Spring Break holiday, *The Tech* will not publish next week. Regular publication will resume April 3.

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In Short

¶ **TimesSelect**, the restricted online content of *The New York Times*, is now free to students and faculty with .edu e-mail addresses. Sign up on <http://www.nytimes.com/>. This service allows access to content from the Opinion section. It has been restricted to paying subscribers since September

2005. TimesSelect includes pieces from columnists like David Brooks, Maureen Dowd, Thomas Friedman, Bob Herbert, Nicholas Kristof, Paul Krugman, and Frank Rich.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

WORLD & NATION

U.S. and South Korea Remain Apart on Trade Negotiations

By Choe Sang-Hun

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Trade negotiations between the United States and South Korea have failed to narrow gaps on issues like agriculture, automobiles and textiles, leaving them for next week, negotiators said Thursday.

“There have been some gains made in the four days of talks,” Min Dong-seok, the assistant agriculture minister, said after his meeting with Ambassador Richard Crowder, the chief American agricultural negotiator. “Those that have not been resolved will be referred to a ministerial-level meeting next week.”

The lack of agreement delayed a free-trade deal that the Bush administration has called the most ambitious since the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994 and a possible model for other deals it seeks in Asia.

A deal with South Korea, experts say, would not only add billions of dollars a year to bilateral trade but also help two allies strengthen a recently strained security relationship.

Democrats See Growing Support For Bill Setting Iraq Deadline

By Jeff Zeleny

and Robin Toner

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

For days, Democratic leaders have scrambled to shore up enough support to pass their Iraq legislation. They delayed the final vote by a day, fearful that a few undecided lawmakers — on the left and right — could jeopardize their plan to set a timeline to bring troops home from Iraq by Sept. 1, 2008.

But when the House opened its war debate on Thursday, the loudest opposition was beginning to fade, particularly from liberals who had argued that the proposal would not end the war fast enough. Leaders of the Out of Iraq Caucus gave their blessing to a handful of Democrats to change their votes, saying it was not in their interest to impede the measure, which is scheduled to come to a vote on Friday.

On both sides of the Capitol on Thursday, Democrats considered emergency war spending proposals, which they are trying to use as vehicles to change course in the four-year-old war. The Senate Appropriations Committee adopted a nonbinding goal of removing troops from Iraq by March 31, 2008, setting the stage for a vote by the full Senate as soon as next week.

Chief Says FCC is Against Cell Phone Use on Airliners

By Matthew L. Wald

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Federal Communications Commission will give up on the idea of allowing cell phone use on airplanes, the chairman said on Thursday, because it is not clear whether the network on the ground can handle the calls.

While the chairman, Kevin J. Martin, cited a technical reason, thousands of air passengers have written to the FCC, urging rejection of the proposal because of the potential for irritating passengers in airliner cabins. The Federal Aviation Administration had been laying the groundwork to allow in-flight cell phone use.

Both agencies would have had to approve before the phones could be legally used on board.

The problem cited by Martin did not have to do with flight safety or the mood in the cabin, but a problem raised by the cell phone industry. The system is designed for phones to communicate with a single cell tower at a time. But a cell phone that is several miles in the air can contact many towers at once, tying up circuits in all of them, the industry argued.

More U.S. Soldiers Deserted Than Was Earlier Reported

By Paul Von Zielbauer

THE NEW YORK TIMES

A total of 3,196 active-duty soldiers deserted the Army last year, or 853 more than previously reported, according to revised figures from the Army.

The new calculations by the Army significantly alter the annual desertion totals since fiscal year 2000. In 2005, for example, the Army now says that 2,543 soldiers deserted, not the 2,011 it had reported. For some earlier years, the desertion numbers were revised downward. National Public Radio first reported on Tuesday that the Army had been inaccurately reporting desertion figures.

A soldier is considered a deserter if he leaves his post without permission, quits his unit or fails to report for duty with the intent of staying away permanently. Soldiers who are absent without leave — or AWOL, a designation that assumes a soldier still intends to return to duty — automatically are classified deserters and are dropped from a unit's rolls if they remain away for more than 30 days.

Some Army officers link the recent uptick in annual desertion rates

to the toll of wartime deployments and point to the increasing percentage of troops who are on their second or third tours in Iraq or Afghanistan.

An Army spokeswoman, Maj. Anne Edgecomb, gave different reasons. Most soldiers desert because of personal, family, or financial problems, she said, adding, “We don’t have any facts to indicate that soldiers who desert now are doing so for reasons different from why soldiers deserted in the past.”

Lt. Col. Brian C. Hilferty, an Army spokesman, said the desertion data errors were caused by confusion among employees who tally them. “They were counting things wrong, and doing it inconsistently,” Hilferty said in an interview.

He added, “We are looking at the rise in desertions, but the numbers remain below pre-war levels and retention remains high, so the force is healthy.”

The Army’s failure to count its deserters accurately is inexcusable, said Derek B. Stewart, the director for Defense Department personnel issues for the Government Accountability Office.

“It is just unbelievable to the GAO to hear that the Army does not know what that number is,” he said in an interview Thursday.

Noting that the problem with the desertion numbers comes at a time when the service cannot find enough recruits to fill certain crucial specialties, like medical experts and bomb defusers, Stewart said, “In the context of their current recruiting problems for certain occupations, these desertion numbers are huge.”

The Army’s new figures also show a faster acceleration in the rate of desertions over the previous two fiscal years than the Army had disclosed. In 2006, for instance, desertions rose by 27 percent, not 17 percent, as the Army previously said, an Army spokesman said.

The Army’s revised figures show 2,543 desertions in the fiscal year 2005, an 8 percent increase from the 2,357 the year before. Previously, the service said 2005 desertions had dropped by 17 percent, to 2,011 from 2,432.

But from fiscal year 2000 through 2003, there were hundreds fewer desertions than the Army had previously reported.

British Police Arrest Three in Connection With '05 Bombings

By Alan Cowell

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON

The British counterterrorism police seized three men on Thursday for offenses related to the bombings in the London transit system on July 7, 2005, in which four suicide bombers killed themselves and 52 passengers.

The arrests were the first in Britain in connection with the attack and rekindled speculation about whether the plot had extended beyond the four bombers.

Two of the men, ages 23 and 30, were arrested around 1 p.m. at the airport in Manchester, in northwestern England, as they were preparing to board a flight to Pakistan. A third man, age 26, was arrested at a house in Leeds three hours later, the police said. Several of the July 7 bombers had close links to Leeds. The British

police routinely do not release names of suspects until charges are filed.

The arrests in the case, Britain’s worst peacetime attack, were presented by the police as evidence of their efforts since the attacks to establish whether the bombers, who exploded backpack bombs on three subway cars and a double-decker bus, had accomplices or worked for some shadowy mastermind. The announcement renewed speculation about whether the bombers could have acted alone.

An Egyptian chemist who had known one of the bombers in England was held for several weeks in Egypt not long after the bombings as a suspect in the case but was eventually released.

M.J. Gohal, a security analyst in London who is executive director of the Asia-Pacific Foundation and who has been following the case closely, said that the issue of who master-

minded the July 2005 attack probably still remained a puzzle for the British authorities.

He said that the ages of the three men arrested on Thursday indicated that they were probably not the major planners, but instead “co-conspirators,” perhaps on the periphery of the plot.

He said he concluded from following the case that “the security services have always believed there were more involved than the four suicide bombers,” and added: “But they’ve never caught the mystery men, the men who recruited them, provided the money, the technical assistance. They’ve always hit a brick wall on that.”

The police moved in on Thursday at a delicate time in an array of counterterrorism inquiries. Six men are currently on trial after failed bombings in London on July 21, 2005.

WEATHER

Melting Away the Winter

By Jon Moskaitis

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Fairly tranquil weather is in store for the first weekend of the spring season in Cambridge. We will be under the influence of a high pressure system today and tomorrow, keeping skies clear and temperatures seasonal. A developing low pressure system will skirt to our south on Saturday night and Sunday, potentially close enough to give us some light snow or rain showers. However, it is most likely that we will just see an increase in cloud cover.

Those traveling away from the Northeast today or this weekend may run into some stormy weather, depending on the destination. The cold front that passed through the Northeast last night stalls today in the Ohio river valley and Mid-Atlantic, serving as a focus for heavy rain there over the next few days. Separate storm systems will bring precipitation to the Southwestern states and to the Pacific Northwest. At least Florida and the adjacent Gulf and Atlantic coasts will stay dry and warm through the weekend, for those vacationing at these traditional spring break havens.

Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High 54°F (12°C).

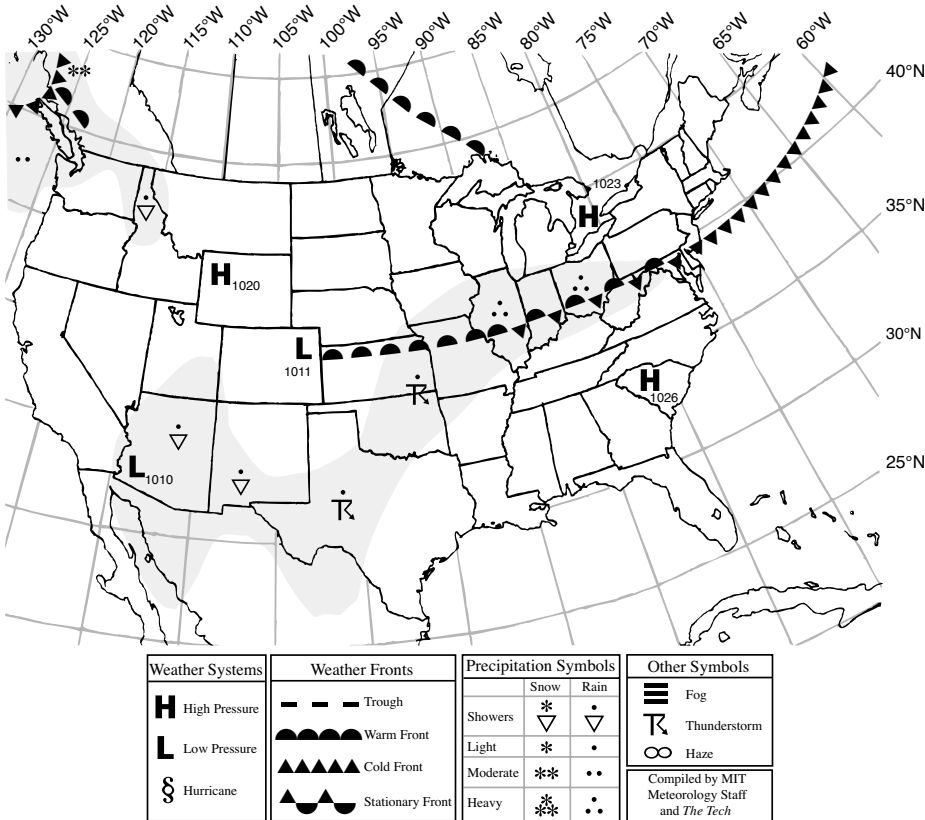
Tonight: Clear and calm. Low 32°F (0°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny, but cool. High 45°F (7°C).

Tomorrow night: Increasing clouds, chance of light snow or rain showers. Low 32°F (0°C).

Sunday: Mostly cloudy, slight chance of rain showers. High 46°F (8°C).

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, March 23, 2007



Pentagon Chief Gates Sought Early Guantanamo Shutdown

By Thom Shanker and David E. Sanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In his first weeks as defense secretary, Robert M. Gates repeatedly argued that the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, had become so tainted abroad that legal proceedings at Guantanamo would be viewed as illegitimate, according to senior administration officials. He told President Bush and others that it should be shut down as quickly as possible.

Gates' appeal was an effort to turn Bush's publicly stated desire to close Guantanamo into a specific plan for action, the officials said. In particular, Gates urged that trials of terror suspects be moved to the United States, both to make them more credible and because Guantanamo's continued existence hampered the broader war effort, administration officials said.

Gates' arguments were rejected after Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and some other government lawyers expressed strong objections to moving detainees to the United States, a stance that was

backed by the office of Vice President Dick Cheney, administration officials said.

As Gates was making his case, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice joined him in urging that the detention facility be closed, according to administration officials. But the high-level discussions about closing Guantanamo came to a halt after Bush rejected the approach, although officials at the National Security Council, the Pentagon and the State Department continue to analyze options for the detention of terrorist suspects.

The base at Guantanamo holds about 385 prisoners, among them 14 senior leaders of al-Qaida, including Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who were transferred to the facility last year from secret prisons run by the CIA.

Under the Pentagon's current plans, some of the prisoners, including Mohammed, will face war crimes charges under military trials that could begin later this year. "The policy remains unchanged," said Gordon D. Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

Even so, one senior administration official who favors the closing of the facility said the battle may be renewed. "Let's see what happens to Gonzales," said the senior administration official, a reference to speculation that Gonzales will be forced to step down, or at least is significantly weakened, because of the political uproar over the firing of U.S. attorneys. "I suspect this one isn't over yet."

Details of the internal discussions on Guantanamo were described by senior officials from three departments or agencies of the executive branch, including officials who support moving rapidly to close Guantanamo and those who do not. One official made it clear that he was willing to discuss the internal deliberations in part because of Gonzales' current political weakness. The senior officials discussed the issue on ground rules of anonymity because it entailed confidential conversations.

The officials said Gates and Rice expressed their concerns about Guantanamo in conversations with Bush and others, including Gonzales, beginning in January and onward.

Residents Hold Out as Egyptian Govt. Evicts Hundreds of Peasants

By Michael Slackman

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GURNA, EGYPT

The Egyptian authorities have evicted hundreds of peasants from this village in southern Egypt because their mud brick houses, which have sat atop some of the world's most treasured and ancient tombs for centuries, were leaking sewage onto priceless antiquities.

The families have been resettled nearby in an Egyptian version of Levittown with running water and telephones. But 80 families are holding out, saying they want more from a government that has so far been reluctant to use brute force.

The Gurna standoff near the famed Valley of the Kings illustrates the challenges facing an authoritarian government that for decades imposed its will on the people keeping them poor but fed, under-employed but employed, but now seeks to adjust the social contract without sparking widespread unrest. The government has again imposed a solution — one that will change the way hundreds of families live — but is negotiating with those left behind

until it finds terms that are acceptable, or at least accepted.

Political analysts say the dynamics here are similar to those all over Egypt as the government tries to transform a centrally controlled economy. In recent months thousands of workers in bloated state-owned factories have staged wildcat strikes, out of fear that privatization will take their jobs or demanding pay raises.

Since September there have been dozens of protests relating to economic demands. In each case, the government avoided the heavy-handed tactics it uses to silence political opposition.

"The state told its citizens to expect everything from it," said Nawal Hassan, a sociologist who has worked closely with the people of Gurna for many years, referring to promises of free education, low-cost food, and guaranteed jobs. "The economy was centralized and activities were controlled, and it was the government which was providing people with what they needed. You can't tell them now, 'Keep that mentality and manage on your own.'"

In Gurna — which sits on the tombs of the Nobles and between the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens with their tombs that date back some 3,500 years — much of the familiar tableau of tourist kitsch and village life has been razed into piles of mud brick rubble.

Egyptian officials say that in Gurna they will finish the task because science and decency are on their side. They are preserving priceless antiquities and moving the villagers to a community with the running water that they lacked in Gurna. They complain that the holdouts are trying to extort the government. Under the plan, every married man receives a two-bedroom house in what is known as New Gurna. But the holdouts are pressing for one house for every son.

"Each family man is asking for a house for himself, and for one for his children," said Sabry Abdel Aziz, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Sector. "We are not distributing millions here. It is a problem of greediness."

Edwards Says Presidential Bid 'Goes On' Despite His Wife's Breast Cancer

By John M. Broder and Christine Hauser

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

John Edwards, the North Carolina Democrat, said Thursday that his wife's cancer had returned, but that his bid for the presidency "goes on strongly."

"The campaign goes on, the campaign goes on strongly," he said, with his wife, Elizabeth, at his side.

Edwards said he learned earlier this week that the cancer had reappeared in his wife's rib cage and that the couple recognized that it was no longer curable, though it could be managed with treatment.

Asked by a reporter whether recurrence of the cancer would cause him to suspend any campaign activities, such as fundraising or travel, Edwards said no. "We know from our previous experience that when this happens you have a choice, you can go cower in the corner and hide, or you can be tough and go out there and stand up for what you believe in," he said.

"Both of us are committed to the cause and we're committed to changing this country that we love so much

and we have no intention of cowering in the corner," Edwards said.

He said that after the news conference they would leave together for New York and Boston, and then to California on Friday.

The announcement came a day after Edwards canceled a campaign appearance in Iowa to rush home to join his wife at a visit with doctors who are monitoring her treatment for breast cancer. He attended a fund-raising picnic here Wednesday night.

Mrs. Edwards received her original diagnosis of breast cancer at the end of the 2004 campaign, but deferred a public announcement until after the election results came in. Edwards has said he waited to announce a second bid for the presidency until he and Mrs. Edwards' doctors were confident about her recovery.

Edwards is considered a top contender for the presidency. Although he tends to finish third in national polls behind Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois, he is leading in some early polls in Iowa, which holds the first nominating contests in the nation. Edwards

finished second in the Iowa caucuses in 2004, making him an obvious contender for the vice presidential nomination with the eventual nominee, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

This year he has placed special emphasis on winning the Iowa contest. He has visited the state 19 times since early 2005 and has said that he believes winning the caucuses is crucial to his chances of capturing the nomination.

Edwards has staked out a position to the left of most of the other Democratic contenders, invoking populist language and imagery to appeal to working class and middle class Democratic primary voters.

He advocates an immediate withdrawal of 50,000 troops from Iraq and virtually complete disengagement by the end of next year. He has proposed an ambitious and expensive plan for universal health care. He would pay for the \$90 billion to \$120 billion health care plan by repealing the Bush-sponsored tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. This week, he announced a plan to combat global warming and reduce dependence on imported oil.

As 2008 Candidate, Giuliani Strikes a New Tone on Guns

By Richard Perez-Pena

THE NEW YORK TIMES

As mayor of New York City, Rudolph W. Giuliani became the favorite Republican of gun control advocates.

He spoke in favor of a licensing system for gun owners that would require trigger locks and firearms training, and he lobbied Congress to outlaw most military-style assault weapons. He was the only Republican mayor to join a lawsuit by dozens of cities against the gun industry, and he complained that Southern states had lax gun laws that fed the illegal weapons trade in the Northeast.

"It was very important to have a visible Republican to make the case that this wasn't some liberal Democratic agenda," said Paul Helmke, a former Republican mayor of Fort Wayne, Ind., and the president of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence. "I was at the signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House when Bill Clinton signed the crime bill with the assault weapons ban, and Giuliani had the most prominent seat in the front row."

But as a presidential candidate, Giuliani now talks very differently about guns as he tries to allay the concerns of Republican primary voters. He says he supports the right of individuals to bear arms, and that states — and generally not the federal government — should decide whether to put some limits on that right. He also spoke in favor of a federal appeals court ruling this month that struck down a District of Columbia law barring people from keeping handguns in their homes.

News Corp. and NBC in Web Deal

By Richard Siklos

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In a long-anticipated challenge to YouTube and other online video sites, two big media companies Thursday announced a new venture to showcase their own programming across the Internet's biggest Web sites, as well as a new jointly owned Web destination.

The News Corp. and NBC Universal will distribute their latest video fare, like episodes of "24" and "The Office" on AOL, Yahoo, MSN and MySpace, which together reach about 96 percent of the Internet's audience in the United States.

The content, which will appear in an embedded media player on these Web sites as well as on a new separate video site that News Corp. and NBC Universal will introduce, will be supported by advertising and free to viewers.

Viewers will also be able to edit the content and post their own videos, a popular feature of other online video sites, as well as buy downloads of movies from the 20th Century Fox and Universal studios.

News Corp. and NBC Universal, like other media companies, have had complex and increasingly tense relationships with Google, which owns YouTube. The media companies' copyrighted material, like television shows and music videos, show up on YouTube without the media companies' permission. Viacom, which has held discussions to join the unnamed new venture but so far as not, is suing YouTube for \$1 billion alleging copyright infringement.

Citing Quran, German Judge Defers Muslim Divorce Case

By Mark Landler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

FRANKFURT, GERMANY

A German judge has stirred a storm of protest by citing the Quran in turning down a German Muslim's request for a speedy divorce on the ground that her husband beat her.

In a ruling that underlines the tension between Muslim customs and European laws, the judge, Christa Datz-Winter, noted that the couple came from a Moroccan cultural milieu, in which it is common for husbands to beat their wives. The Quran, she wrote in her decision, sanctions such physical abuse.

News of the ruling brought swift and sharp condemnation from politicians, legal experts and Muslim leaders in Germany, many of whom said they were confounded that a German judge would put seventh-century Islamic religious teaching ahead of German law in deciding a case of domestic violence.

The court in Frankfurt abruptly removed Datz-Winter from the case on Wednesday, saying it could not justify her reasoning. The woman's lawyer, Barbara Becker-Rojczyk, said she decided to publicize the ruling, which was issued in January, after the court refused her request for a new judge.

"It was terrible for my client," Becker-Rojczyk said. "This man beat her seriously from the beginning of their marriage. After they separated, he called her and threatened to kill her."

Muslim leaders agreed that Muslims living here must be judged by the German legal code. But they were just as offended by what they characterized as the judge's misinterpretation of a much-debated passage in the Quran governing relations between husbands and wives.

In Baghdad, U.N. Chief Praises Security as Shell Explodes

By Kirk Semple

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

A mortar shell fired into the heavily fortified Green Zone landed about 80 yards from the home of Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki on Thursday while he and the U.N. secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, were holding a news conference to mark Ban's first visit to Baghdad.

Like most such attacks on the Green Zone, a favorite target for insurgents with mortars and rockets, the bombing caused some structural damage but no casualties. Its greatest impact was felt in the symbolic realm.

Seconds before the shell struck, Ban said he was considering expanding the U.N. presence in Iraq because of an improvement in the security situation. The deafening explosion seemed to unnerv the secretary-general, who like almost everyone else in the room ducked his head as windows shattered outside and flecks of plaster drifted down from the ceiling. Al-Maliki barely shifted.

A bodyguard rushed up to al-Maliki and grabbed his arm in an effort to lead him to another room, but the prime minister brushed him away, saying sharply, "It's nothing." When the bodyguard did not relent, the prime minister turned to him and snapped, "Go!"

OPINION



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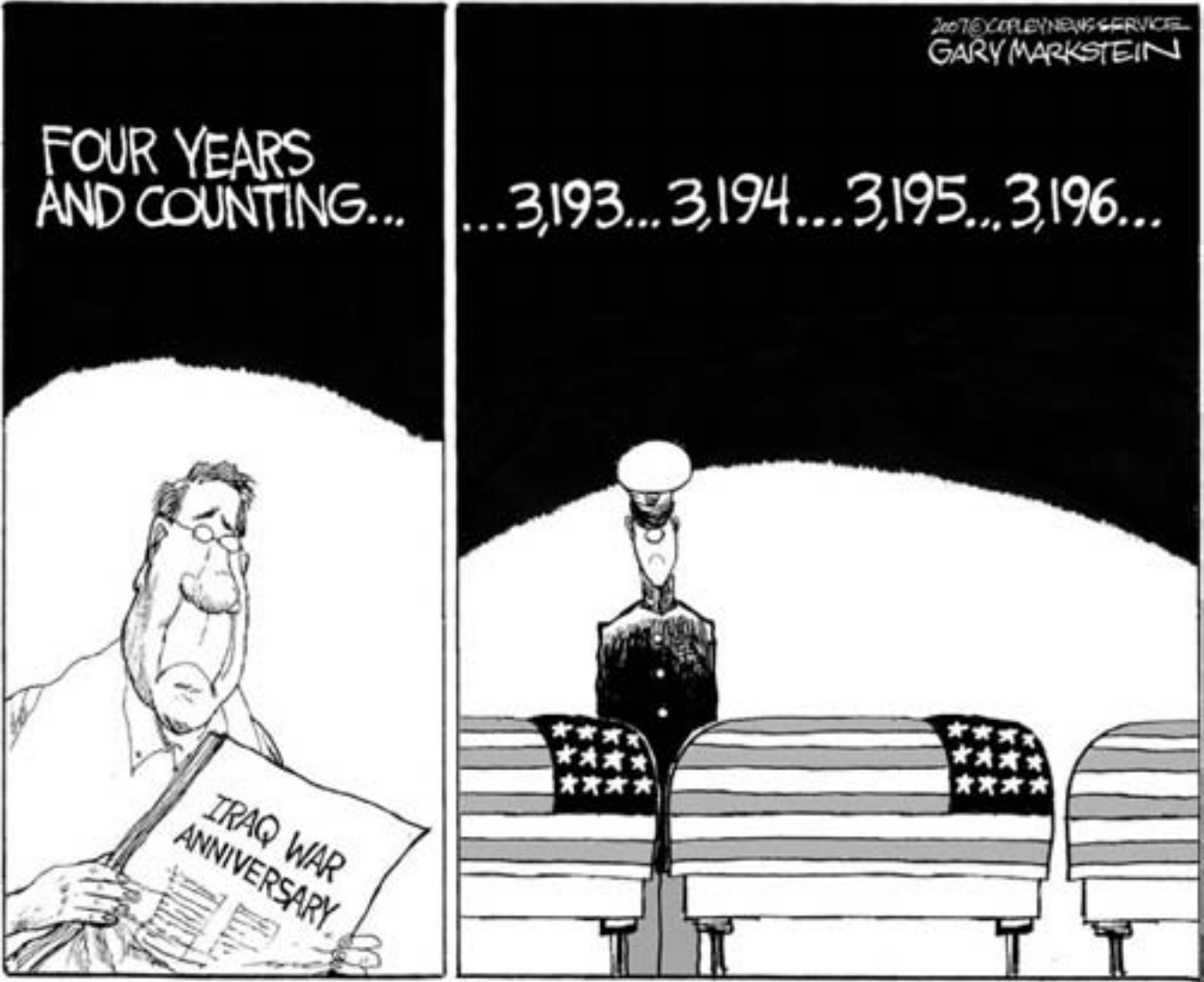
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The Tech

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W20-483

Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco, G

Date: March 21, 2007
From: Punxsutawney Phil
To: Mr. Buddy @ MIT
Subject: Re: Law Suit

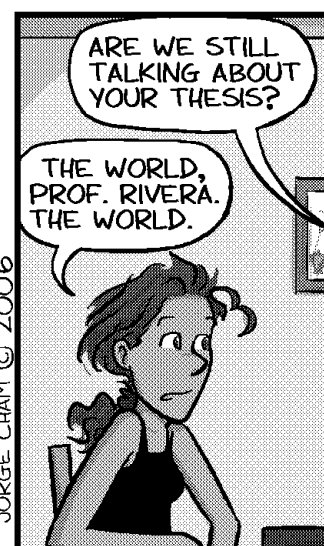
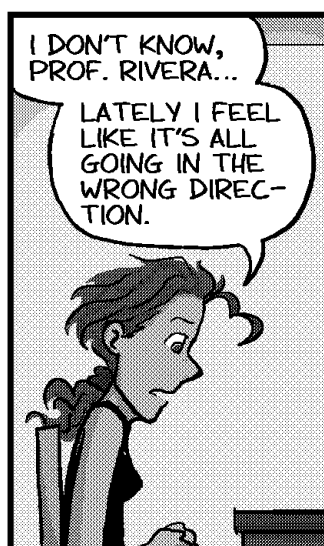
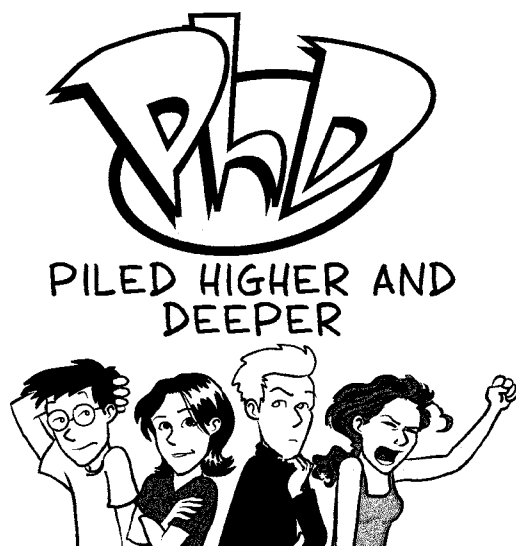
We acknowledge receipt of your letter informing us of the legal action taken against our Groundhog Day 2007 forecast. We deeply regret the cold days of last week. Shadow-scanning technology is not without flaws. We appreciate your patronage, and will compensate you for the fact

that the first day of Spring found MIT campus covered in snow and ice, by means of an extra-hot Summer, starting next June. We beg you to reconsider your law suit. Since our forecast is provided free as a public service, we have no funds to pay the \$5 million you request for emotional distress. (On a personal note, I have three little groundhog babies and a wife to support.) Yours truly,

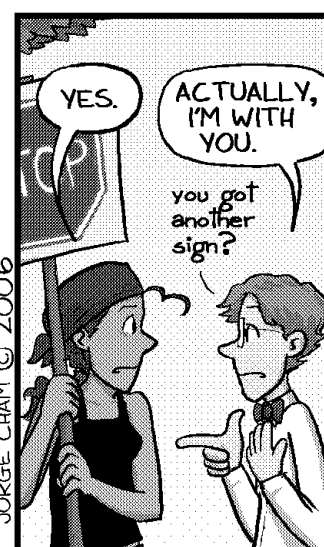
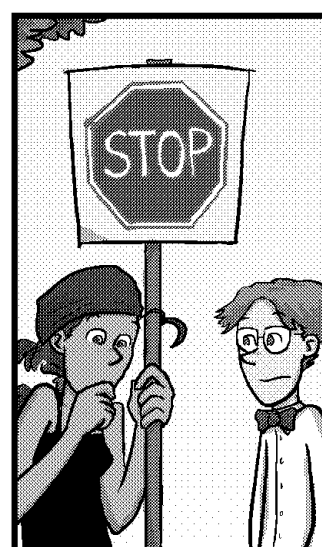
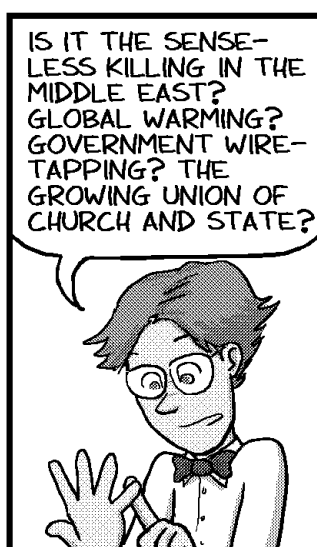
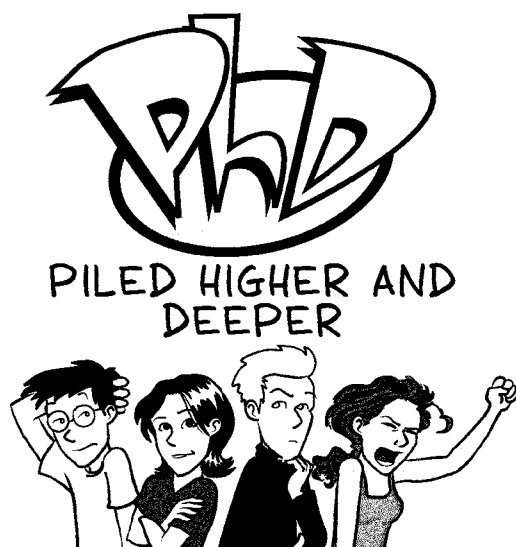
- Phil

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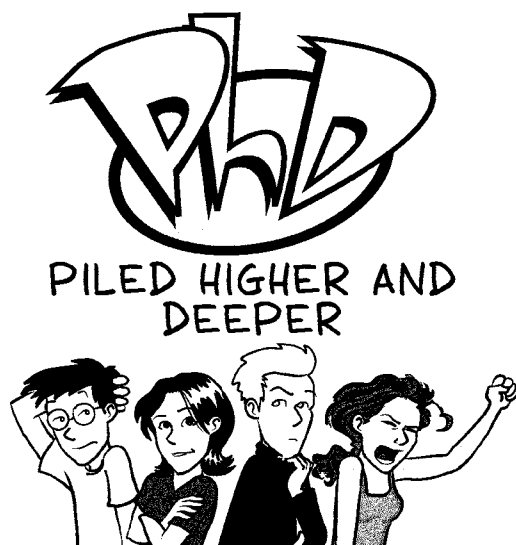
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2007 Infinite corridor census statistics

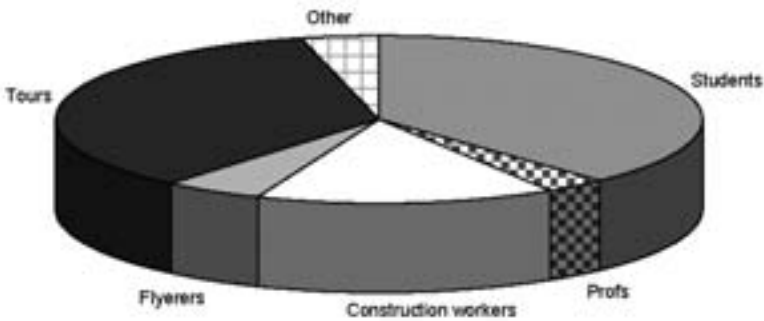


Figure 6. This chart was constructed with average demographics of the infinite corridor. The data is subject to seasonal variation, and so it is only meant to show trends. For instance, between May and September the ‘Tours’ population grows significantly, while the ‘Student’ population shrinks. The value of the Tours group is also inflated by the fact that they move slowly, so their average occupancy of the corridor increases.

su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.
Solution on page 12.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

1 Reason by deduction

7 Green beryls

15 Hired killers

16 Northern Israeli

17 Having the power of flight

18 Former love

19 Ladylove

21 Bone cavity

22 E-mail punctuation

23 Spanish capital

25 Seven days

26 Bahrain ruler

28 Hangs in suspension

30 Crafty

31 Alternative beau

33 Coined money

35 Picturesque

37 Funeral tollings

41 Obituary page listings

45 “Silas Marner” author

46 Blackjack

49 Disengage

51 Greek covered walkway

52 Contemptible persons

54 Indian instruments

56 Ending of a belief

57 Spirit in “The Tempest”

59 Artifice used to gain an advantage

61 Compartment in a sleeping car

63 Abstruse

64 Advents

65 Doorway header

66 Nursery piece

67 Exceeds the limit

DOWN

1 Room screens

2 Financially rewarding

3 Having pertinence

4 Mosque leader

5 Malicious language

6 Draw into contradiction

7 Head-swelling experience

8 Feeling of discomfort

9 Aged, old-style

10 Repeated rhythmic phrase

11 Sanction

12 Tenants’ contracts

13 Maiden

14 Underhanded

20 Fusses

24 Orlop, for one

27 “We the Living” author

29 Trigonometric function

32 Stead

34 Slippery catches

36 Fires

38 Contest at law

39 Untied

40 Coarse undergarment fabrics

42 Scotland’s emblem

43 Most trendy

44 Fly high

46 Sacred beetle

47 Dawn goddess

48 Arrest record

50 South African stockades

53 Big rigs

55 Mall or mine preceder

58 Son of Leah

60 Skin problem

62 Soak up rays

ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

MITSO Performance Shines With Exuberance

Elisabeth Hon Delights in Mozart's Cantata

By Bogdan Fedeles
STAFF WRITER

MITSO Concert
Friday, Mar. 16, 2007
Kresge

During my time at MIT, I have learned that the best thing to do on a Friday night is to grab some friends and go to a MITSO concert, which is possible about twice a term. When I got to Kresge last Friday, I was delighted to see a large audience that apparently felt the same way despite the surprisingly inclement weather. Under the baton of conductor Paul M. Biss, MITSO again delivered an uplifting performance, featuring the all-time favorites Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite" and Stravinsky's "Firebird." The program also included Beethoven's "Symphony No. 1" and Mozart's early masterpiece, the cantata "Exsultate, Jubilate", with soprano Elisabeth Hon G, winner of the MITSO concerto competition.

The concert was enjoyable throughout, but several moments were outright impressive. Among these, the cantata was the highlight of the evening. Hon, a PhD student in electrical engineering, enthralled the audience with her singing, showcasing not only a solid vocal technique, but also a uniquely sweet timbre. Her graceful, unassuming stage presence matched Mozart's playful music, written when the composer was only 16 years old. Also remarkable was Hon's expressivity, as she effortlessly conveyed the central emotion in the piece, which is exultation in divine communion, achieved through prayer and song.

Although an early composition, Mozart's "Exsultate Jubilate" is a notoriously difficult piece. Hon delivered it with a dexterity that demonstrated rigorous musical and vocal training, as well as ample performing experience. All the challenging elements, including trills, high notes and melismata (vocal runs) were rendered with utmost precision, to the great delight of the audience.

The piece requires only a small chamber orchestra for accompaniment, comprised of strings, oboes and horns. Although not in the spotlight, this reduced complement of MITSO confidently supported the soloist, highlighting Mozart's inventive figurations. The violas introducing the slow movement theme were especially expressive. Also noteworthy was the presence of the organ as a continuo in the recitativ section. Hearing the instrument adorning one of Kresge's balconies come to life while Hon's voice soared gracefully through the auditorium made for a mesmerizing moment.

If you missed Friday's concert, you will have another chance to enjoy Hon's vocal mastery, at her Emerson recital, Friday April 20, 5 p.m., in Killian Hall.

Stravinsky's "Firebird Suite," performed last, was also breathtaking. This time, the music required a large orchestra, including a great variety of percussion instruments. MITSO tackled Stravinsky's famous score with a youthful exuberance and energy, in the end delivering an engaging performance. The slow sections in the piece were the most expressive, due in great part to excellent playing in the winds section. The extended wind solos, often on simple Russian folk tunes, went straight to audience's heart. The faster sections, although imbued with good energy, tended to get a little hectic, though never out of control. Nevertheless, the most memorable section of the piece — the ending — was also the most exciting, being rendered with great enthusiasm and verve.

The first half of the concert featured Beethoven's "Symphony No.1" and Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No.1." Although solidly played, this half was clearly overshadowed by the charm and ebullience of the second half.

While Beethoven's first symphony is often considered a lesser work, this performance highlighted its intricacies and novel ideas. The majestic character of the introduction and first theme were accurately conveyed, al-

though the first movement lacked some of the liveliness and brilliance required by the con brio marking. The other movements got more exciting, notably the heartfelt melancholy of the Andante, the energy and good voicing in the Scherzo (called here Menuetto) and the wit of the finale. The overall performance was enjoyable, but the occasional imperfection in synchronization prevented the music from reaching sustained expressivity.

Grieg's suite fared slightly better. Due to the popular nature of the tunes featured, MITSO's rendition of "Peer Gynt" was engaging, despite very occasional intonation difficulties. Again, the winds stood out with captivating solos in the first movement, "Morning Mood,"

which suffused the audience with its serenity. The strings had their moment in "Ase's Death," a movement for muted strings only, where they effectively conveyed the hero's sorrow watching his mother on her deathbed. "Anitra's Dance" featured the triangle, perhaps a little too abundantly, so that despite the good dance impetus, the movement came out less expressive than the other three. Finally, the famous troll chase from "In the Hall of the Mountain King" was extremely entertaining and good humored. Although in MITSO's rendition, the trolls seemed to stumble occasionally while chasing Peer Gynt, by the end, the hero makes a successful escape and the piece ends with a fulfilling bang.



MITSO Conductor Paul M. Biss applauds the members of the orchestra during his second curtain call at the end of the night.



The MIT Symphony Orchestra performed a concert this past Friday, March 16 featuring soprano soloist Elisabeth A. Hon G, winner of the 2007 MITSO Concerto Competition. She is pictured singing during Wolfgang Amadé Mozart's "Exsultate, Jubilate."



Amy L. Norovich plays pizzicato during MITSO's performance of "In the Hall of the Mountain King," part of Edvard Grieg's "Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Opus 46."



Ina Zdorovetchi, a harpist from the New England Conservatory, plays during MITSO's final piece of the night, the 1919 version of Igor Stravinsky's "The Firebird Suite."

CD REVIEW

‘Neon Bible’ Catalogues Faith Unrewarded

Arcade Fire’s Sophomore Release Unsettling and Unsettled

By Andrew Lee

STAFF WRITER

Arcade Fire

“Neon Bible”

Produced by Arcade Fire

Merge Records

In the liner notes to the Arcade Fire’s debut album, *Funeral*, there’s a remark on how the band was mindful of “the irony of their first full length recording bearing a name with such closure.” It’s an aspect of the title not hard to notice on your own, but I saw it as only being half the story behind the title and the album.

When seeking “closure” — whether it’s for the passing of a friend, relative or relationship — what are you really looking to put an end to? The end has already happened (at the moment of death, separation, or disappearance), and your time since then is a lingering afterimage. It’s not until there’s a burial — figurative or actual — that the fog clears and you can re-gather what’s left of what you once were. The moment of closure is the beginning of the rest of your life.

To me, Arcade Fire’s *Funeral* was a veiled celebration of that fact. After a series of impossibly maudlin verses, a track on *Funeral* like “Crown of Love” culminates in an outburst of unbridled joy that is nothing short of revelatory. When singer Win Butler finally confesses “your name is the only word that I can say!” he liberates his mind and body into an exultation that can only be achieved once all his inhibitions have been hurled aside.

Unfortunately, to cling to a hopeless situation is just too ... comfortable. Sometimes it takes more courage than we have to cut ourselves loose, when there are no guarantees that it’ll pay

off. Based on what I gather from *Neon Bible*, Arcade Fire’s latest album, the band has probably realized this. While the mentality of *Funeral* is underpinned by a faith in the cinematically redeeming nature of a life experience, *Neon Bible* concedes the truth that we spend our whole lives avoiding: some suffering is and always will be with you, and if you manage to get a learning experience out of it, then good for you, but you can’t keep it away for long.

The opening track of *Neon Bible*, “Black Mirror,” is both our bridge from the previous record and also the album’s declaration of ideology. The familiar strokes are there: husband and wife team, Win and Régine, quiver through string-punctuated drama, and then, as listeners have come to expect from their lyrics, unexpected French breaks forth! With the eponymous “miroir cassé” (broken mirror) in fragments, no one is left to turn to for answers, either inwardly or externally.

The grim realizations continue into the hymnal “Intervention,” where the lyrics are as candid as anything we’ve seen from the band. “Working for a church while your family dies” is an excessively blunt line, but at least it gets the message across. Arcade Fire isn’t mourning a world of reason — the world has always been maliciously reasonable — instead, the just world that they thought they had a grasp on (and faith in) pulled a vanishing act on its own whim. Faith had its use as a temporary salve, but now the band and its listeners get to watch as “the king’s taken back the throne” and hear “the soldier groan all quiet and alone,” recalling the existential horror of World War I trench warfare — a chapter in our history now cruelly resurrected.

Neon Bible turns out to be somewhat less satisfying a record than its predecessor. The meta-

phors are less charming and frequently more transparent than they were on *Funeral*, and the tension-then-payoff mantra of the older material is frustratingly inverted this time around, with “Intervention” the first of a litany of offenders. Not much on the record compares to the allure of that initial blast of pipe organ. It burns brightly only long enough for the band’s acolytes to briefly warm their hands over before it flickers and dies. That “Intervention” can’t live up to the transcendence it promises is a small complaint (it’s still an album highlight), but some of the next tracks fall into a similar pattern of eager build-up with inexplicably arrested momentum. It’s as if the band were forcing itself to assemble more sophisticated song structures instead of letting the songs write themselves.

Of those songs, “The Well and the Light-house” falls the most into the built-in groove it carves for itself. The brisk first half teases the listener into believing he’s found the centerpiece of the album, deceptively including gems like “I’m serving time all for a crime I did commit/ You want the truth?/ You know I’d do it all again” over a hyperventilating bass line. Régine’s cries of “what you fear/ what you fear” in the background turn out to be a false climax, as the song wrenchingly puts on the brakes and transforms into a perplexing sort of waltz. At best, it’s a missed opportunity. Realistically, it’s a mistake the band didn’t need to make, and it’s not the last one they make on *Neon Bible*.

Arcade Fire likely intended “No Cars Go” to be the ultimate payoff of the album. As a stand-alone single, the track is magnificent — everything one could ask for from the band. Unfortunately, this is actually a new performance of an old song — one of their first, in fact. The expe-

rience of listening to it shouldn’t be missed by any Arcade Fire fan and also serves as a great introduction to the band, but hearing it on this album so long after its initial release gives the unshakeable impression of the song as a reprise. It compromises the album as a whole the same way that the presence of a cover song would. Although “No Cars Go” is admittedly improved in this version, its inclusion is still a misguided act of fan service.

That *Neon Bible* encountered such troubles is disappointing, but there will be few other albums released this year in the same league. The redemption of *Neon Bible* comes in the unlikelyst of places with the charging acoustic number “(Antichrist Television Blues),” in which the protagonist frantically spills out his fear of continuing with the ongoing tragedy of a life without some kind of sign that his paranoia and piety will be part of some ultimate design by the end of his life, or at least for his children. It is the soul of *Neon Bible* laid out in all its honesty, and it lifts the album’s second half from its mire.

Voltaire’s ever-theorizing protagonist Candide would rationalize such calamities and despair as nothing more than “the shadows in a beautiful picture” that are necessary for the existence of “the best of all possible worlds” in which all are privileged to live. I would disagree; after all, “those shadows ... are horrible blemishes.” With *Neon Bible*, Arcade Fire reaches this less sunny conclusion as well. A sacred world exists solely, if at all, within the buttresses of a cathedral, and only as far as its organ can drone. Just look at the album cover: a Bible awkwardly splayed apart tries vainly to radiate its pages’ divinity to the rest of the world but its glow fails in the face of an impossible task.

CONCERT REVIEW

The Shins Bring Boston to Its Knees

Live Performance Brings Rawer Sound

Alice Macdonald

STAFF WRITER

The Shins

Orpheum Theatre

Thursday, Mar. 15, 2007

Fresh off their new album release, *Winning the Night Away*, The Shins are in the midst of a whirlwind tour, and last Thursday they graced Boston with their presence. I was lucky enough to witness this, and what follows is a (mostly) accurate representation of what went down. Interviewing fans leaving the venue, I gathered the following: the show was “fucking awesome,” “really great,” and “smokin’.”

It all started with the opening act, Viva Voce. I had never heard of them, but apparently they are from Portland, Oregon, and have matching haircuts. They were like an inverse White Stripes with a man playing Meg’s role on the drums (only a way better drummer), and

a chick rocking it out on guitar à la Jack. Some fans I talked to had some negative things to say about the band such as, “They should never play music again.” I though they were pretty hilarious with over-the-top stage mannerisms, and they exceeded my expectations for an opening act.

Next there was a brief pause to change sets, and the empty seats filled. The Shins took the stage and there was much rejoicing. They played a lot of their new stuff, which rocks a lot harder live than on the recording. In fact, The Shins rock a lot more in general on stage than on their recordings. This is likely because their recordings involve a lot of ephemeral, sometimes psychedelic, sometimes electronic moments. This is hard to do live. I consider them to be on the line between a sort of indie soft rock and pop music. I’ve heard their style called “orchestral pop,” but their live sound was much less pop-y than I remembered from listening to their CDs and certainly not “or-

chestral.” Upon returning from the show, I gave *Winning the Night Away* another listen and it was way better than I remembered. Seeing the band live completely changed my perspective on the music (deep, right?) Besides the new songs, they played all their hits off of *Chutes Too Narrow*, and *Oh, Inverted World*. They also played a couple covers (including “Someone I Care About,” by The Modern Lovers) ... which were okay, I guess.

The Shins play my kind of show. There are no costume changes, unnecessary sets, or stupid jokes and anecdotes between numbers. They just played the music without unnecessary embellishment or shenanigans. The result was that they played really well. They seemed to really care that the music sounded awesome. Frontman James Mercer even restarted a slow number halfway through because something wasn’t right. I am now also in love with the guy who plays the keyboard, Martin Crandall. He rocks. Crandall sometimes plays the bass or the

maracas, and Mercer busted out a harmonica during the encore. These guys are multi-talented! My least favorite part of the night involved an audience sing-along. You can imagine how this went, (“called to see, if you’re back ...”). This might just be a pet peeve of mine, but when I pay to see a show, I would like to hear the band perform — not the vomit-scented girl in a backless shirt next to me.

Looking around, I was reminded of how much people love rock music. There was awkward dancing all around and the only person who wasn’t feeling it was the eight-year-old seated directly to my left, who seemed a little overwhelmed. Apparently, parents are a lot cooler than when I was his age. It was a school night, for crying out loud!

After this Boston stop, the Shins continue their tour, hitting up Canada, Europe, and California. If you missed them this time around, tickets are on sale for Brussels, Belgium. Maybe I will see you there.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★½

The Epitome of Epic

‘300’ a Mix of Violence, Gore, and Gratuitous Nudity

By Kevin Wang

“300”

Directed by Zach Snyder

Written by Zach Snyder and Kurt Johnstad

Starring: Gerard Butler, Lena Headey, and Dominic West

Rated R

Now Playing

300 is like watching low budget pornography: you know that it’s terrible and generally degrading to the human race, but you can’t help loving it. A lot.

300 is the most epic of rampages, featuring more testosterone than the lovechild of a Superbowl party and a WWE title match. It is kick-you-in-the-tonsils violent, blending the brutal drama of *Gladiator* with all the viciousness of Quentin Tarantino’s films. Movie theaters showing it should be required to hand out diapers when you buy your ticket. The oodles of combat sequences leave absolutely nothing to be desired: they are exciting, enthralling, and generally satisfy every repressed urge that we have accumulated in a society that discourages poking holes in one another with sharp sticks. 300 is nothing if not a reminder of simpler times, when men and women stood, fought, and died for their beliefs, and everybody had a

perfect six-pack.

Based on a graphic novel of the same name, the film describes one of the greatest moments in human history: the Battle of Thermopylae. Ancient historians tell of a battle where a handful of Greeks, notably some 300 Spartans, sacrificed themselves to delay an army of hundreds of thousands of Persian invaders. 300 follows two main plot lines: one at Thermopylae, the other back in Sparta. The majority of the movie tracks the exploits of the warriors headed by King Leonidas as they brutally attack their Persian enemies. The rest of the film focuses on Leonidas’ wife Gorgo, as she struggles to convince the Spartan council (led by the corrupt politician Theron) to send aid to her beleaguered husband. There’s nothing like a little betrayal to make the good guys seem better, and 300 is no movie to miss an opportunity to make the stakes even more ridiculous.

But these grand historical backdrops are just icing on the cake to the amazing visuals that the film presents. Saying that 300 is “violent” is like saying *Bambi* is lame; sure it’s true, but it doesn’t even begin to scratch the surface. The scenes and textures in 300 were digitally enhanced, so one gets a great glimpse of every dismembered limb as it flies off at an

angle which the first day of 8.01 could have told you is impossible. The film also cleverly intersperses slow-motion sequences with real time action, giving a nice long view of every gory impalement while skipping over the boring parts, like jumping over Persian corpses. Even more than the Mars landing or the internet, 300 illustrates the true wonders of modern computing: showing *exactly* what a severed head looks like as it lofts through the air in slow motion.

As an added bonus (and to use those delightful computer-enhanced graphics further), 300 features more unnecessary nudity than I’ve seen since my last spring break. The Spartans, it seems, were big fans of Speedos. There is nary a scene lacking in copious amounts of exposed flesh — it really does seem that you can’t spell “epic” without a “pec.” Just to break up the monotony of this nonstop Bowflex infomercial, 300 mercifully includes a plethora of topless women — indeed, no female character with a speaking role goes fully clothed for the duration of the film.

300 does suffer from some flaws, however. A screenplay composed of 90 percent combat and 9.9 percent gratuitous nudity doesn’t leave much room for character development, and like a streamlined stealth fighter, 300 dispenses

with all unnecessary encumbrances such as meaningful dialogue. Besides Leonidas, Gorgo, Theron and Xerxes, there are virtually no speaking parts, and I confess that I didn’t even catch the names of most of the other characters, although that might have been the awesomeness of the fight sequences blasting extraneous details from my brain. Moreover, the film is far from historically accurate — just in case there was any doubt as to who the “good guys” are, the Persian army contains any number of unrealistic baddies, such as a rhino and an executioner who looks like Jabba Chain-saw-Hands. While this detracts a bit from the film — the story was dramatic enough already — what good action movie couldn’t use an armor-plated rhino?

All in all, seeing 300 is a more than worthwhile investment of time. Everything about it shrieks “epic.” The Spartans, vastly outnumbered yet fighting for the right to freedom, democracy, puppy dogs, and candy-canes, defend their homeland from evil invaders representing tyranny and oppression. 300 is a reverse mirror that shows our modern society the things that we lack: the courage to stand up for our ideals, the strength to defend our families, and perfect bodies to bare at every possible moment. Go see it.

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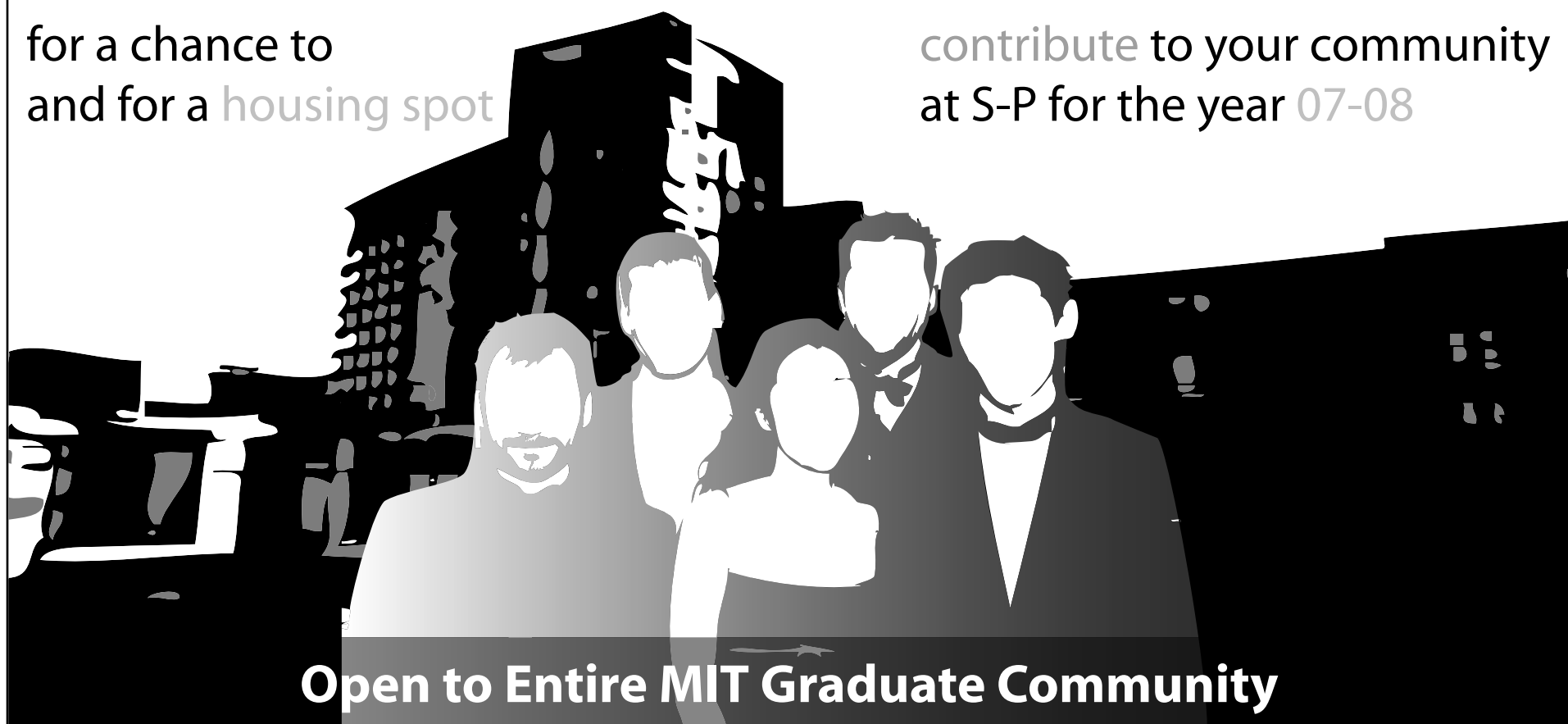
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Open to Entire MIT Graduate Community

'08 Election May Cause Changes

Holmes and Wyne Credit Success to Door-to-Door Campaigning Effort

Elections, from Page 1

available online for the 2008-2009 school year, which does not provide for another student holiday.

Holmes and Wyne also stressed the formation of a Committee on Institute Communication. The committee would report to the UA President and Vice President to “bridge the gap between the administration and students,” Holmes said. Holmes expressed concern over a lack of student input in administrative decisions, specifically citing rumored plans to remove Burton-Conner kitchens.

Holmes attributed his and Wyne’s success to their “door-to-door” campaign. Wyne said that campaigning door-to-door allowed the pair to hear “what [students] wanted to see the UA do.” Wyne also attributed the increase in voter turnout to their interactive campaigning and said that the increase in turnout was “very encouraging.”

Election improvements

Changes to the elections system may be in order after problems arose regarding the vice presidential candidacy of Prashant K. Dilwali ’08 and his late ballot application. Dilwali said that “members of the ’08 class who voted earlier [in between Wednesday and Saturday] were not as informed as they could have been,” because the Web site indicated he had violated campaign rules, though the violation was not explained until later. “[The] decisions ... should [have been] made available promptly to the public,” said Dilwali.

Holmes said he would consider possible changes to future election proceedings. “The simple fact that they [the UA] didn’t have an existing JudBoard at the time was a problem,” he said. “People just need to be more aware that problems can arise and

Results of Spring 2007 UA Election

UA President and Vice President
Martin F. Holmes ’08 and Ali S. Wyne ’08 ¥ (1019 Votes)

Class of 2008

President	Phi T. Ho	293 Votes
Vice President	Rajat Bhalla	227 Votes
Treasurer	Anthony M. Cappaert	72 Votes
Secretary	Christina S. Kang*§	381 Votes
Publicity Chairs	Jennifer D’Ascoli & Estevan (Milo) Martinez †	302 Votes
Social Chairs	Connie C. Yeh & Stephen A. Steger*	413 Votes

Class of 2009

President	Vivian Tang	232 Votes
Vice President	Deepa Mokshagundam	208 Votes
Treasurer	Angela L. Cantu*	356 Votes
Secretary	Ting Ting Luo*	327 Votes
Publicity Chairs	Arjun Naskar & Demario D. Dayton*	374 Votes
Social Chairs	Tina P. Srivastata & Amirah Nabiyah Khan*†	377 Votes

Class of 2010

President	Jason A. Scott*	344 Votes
Vice President	Laura H. Han*	328 Votes
Treasurer	Wen Y. Tang*	332 Votes
Secretary	Natasha (Tash) Bosanac*	330 Votes
Publicity Chairs	Crystal J. Mao & Tiffany T. Chu*	337 Votes
Social Chairs	Steven H. Hong & Thomas W. Hay*	329 Votes

* Unopposed candidate
† Incumbent
¥ Wyne is also an opinion staff writer for *The Tech*
§ Kang is also a photographer for *The Tech*

SOURCE: MICHELLE JEONG '08, UA ELECTION COMMISSION CHAIR

when they do arise, we need a solid, concrete way to deal with them.” Holmes said. Holmes also said that the UA can improve their elections

by ensuring “that all the candidates are well-informed at the start of the election so people can know when they are violating the code.”

Gender Inequality an Issue Still Present in Admissions

Admissions, from Page 1

the table below.

Jones said that the higher acceptance rate for women reflects fewer female applicants. Jones said it would be “misleading” to say that standards differ for accepting women into MIT. “Women don’t apply in the same numbers as men do. It’s a cultural thing,” Jones said. “The ones who do, they’re just really strong” and “very desirable types of candidates,” while the male applicant pool has “wider ranges,” she said. Jones did not know whether the ratio of males to females would change if the number of female applicants increased.

Jones said that MIT does not have quotas for the number of male or female students accepted and that the only quotas the admissions office employs are for international students. Foreign student admissions are limited to eight percent of the incoming class.

Jones, who has worked in the admissions office since 1979, said that MIT tries to actively recruit populations that are underrepresented in the applicant pool, that can vary widely from year to year. Gender, however, has always been an issue, she said, and “it continues to be true.” When Jones first arrived at MIT the undergraduate population was 17 percent female. That number rose to 39 percent by 1998 when Jones was named Dean of Admissions. The Class of 2010, which entered last fall, was 45 percent female.

MIT Applied and Admitted Statistics

Years	Applied		Admitted	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
2005-2006	7608	2832	758 (10.0%)	736 (26.0%)
2004-2005	7669	2797	898 (11.7%)	767 (27.4%)
2003-2004	7651	2898	885 (11.6%)	850 (29.3%)

SOURCE: MIT OFFICE OF THE PROVOST, INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AT HTTP://WEB.MIT.EDU/IR/CDS/

Jones said that MIT continues to recruit women and other groups through a variety of methods, including directly contacting target students that have good standardized test scores. We “try to get as many different people to come to MIT” from many different places, Jones said. “The problems of the world need to be solved by people who are from those places,” she said.

Increase in class size planned

Jones is a member of the Enrollment Management Group, a committee of administrators with ties to undergraduate education. The committee, which reports to President Hockfield, recently recommended an increase in the size of the incoming class. Although there was a slight increase in the incoming class size, a large increase will come following the conversion of Ashdown House into an undergraduate residence.

Jones, however, suggests caution in increasing the class size. She said admitting more students is a “thin line to walk,” stating that MIT should take care to ensure the best opportunities and access to resources for all students. Jones doesn’t think the increasing class size will decrease MIT’s selectivity and predicts that within three years the acceptance rate will fall to Yale’s recent level of 8 percent.

Jones, however, said that she doesn’t foresee the class size reaching over 1,100 students. “We’re not there yet,” she said.

Moscow University Investigates Claims

Students Say Teaching, Living Standards Declined at Prestigious School

By C.J. Chivers
THE NEW YORK TIMES

MOSCOW

Moscow State University, one of Russia’s most prestigious schools, has opened an investigation into accusations by students that teaching standards and living conditions in one of its academic departments have been severely eroded, students and university officials said in recent days.

The investigation, into the conditions in the Sociology Department, will be conducted by a special commission of faculty members and administrators that was formed last week. It follows a rare and remarkable burst of defiance and student activism on a Russian campus, a case of grass-roots organization and civic activity that private groups and critics of the Kremlin have said has been in decline in recent years.

The accusations, many of them circulated by a small group of students to Western universities in an effort to gain support, also strongly suggested that official anti-Western attitudes and creeping nationalism were undermining the quality of the teaching.

The students said, for example, that extremist views had become institutionalized and that conspiracy theories had infiltrated the teaching.

“The dean’s office has distributed a brochure to all students that approvingly quotes the ‘Protocols of the Elders of Zion,’ blames Freemasons and Zionists for the world wars, and claims that they control U.S. and British policy and the global financial system,” the students wrote in one of their public appeals. “Studying conditions at the department are unbearable.”

Vladimir I. Dobrenkov, the dean of the Sociology Department, dismissed the complaints about the

NY Attorney General To Sue Student Loan Company in Civil Suit

By Jonathan D. Glater
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Andrew M. Cuomo, New York’s attorney general, announced Thursday that he planned to bring a civil lawsuit against a student lending company for deceptive business practices, accusing it of paying colleges and universities to steer student borrowers toward its loans.

Cuomo’s action, which would seek to bar the practice and to recover money from the company, Education Finance Partners of San Francisco, stems from an investigation of relationships between colleges and universities and the companies that lend money to students.

Lawmakers in Washington, including Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who heads the education committee, are also looking into these ties.

Cuomo said his office was also talking with universities about adopting a code of conduct to govern relations with lenders, including the payment arrangement that some refer to as “revenue sharing.”

“We believe these revenue-sharing agreements are really no different than kickbacks,” Cuomo said at a news conference at his office in Manhattan. He added that his office believed the payments were illegal under New York law, which would arguably apply to the company because it extends loans to students in New York and markets its loans here.

Tamera Briones, the chief executive of Education Finance, said in a statement that the company had been cooperating with the attorney general’s investigation. She defended the payments to colleges, saying they did not affect the terms of the loans.

“The price to the borrower is based on the borrower’s risk profile,” Briones said.

She added that the payments to colleges could support financial aid to needy students.

Briones criticized the attorney general’s office for rushing to file a lawsuit before all the facts were known. “We question whether the attorney general’s office is seriously interested in learning all of the facts and whether there has been an actual violation of law,” she said.

Cuomo said more than 60 colleges and universities nationwide have received payments from Education Finance through arrangements in which colleges and universities receive money based on how much students borrow. The payments create a conflict of interest for university financial aid offices, Cuomo said, because they are an incentive to steer students to a lender for reasons unrelated to loan terms.

On Wednesday, Kennedy, who heads the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, sent a letter to several large student loan companies, including Sallie Mae, Citibank, Bank One and Bank of America, asking that they detail their financial relationships with educational institutions.

“When students take out loans to pay for college, they should be assured that the relationship between their school and their lender is free of bias or conflict of interest,” Kennedy said in a statement.

Among the institutions that have received payments from Education Finance are St. John’s University, Long Island University, Boston University, Clemson University and Baylor University, the attorney general’s office said.

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Cal State Admins. Say a Strike Will Not Close Down Campuses

Cal State, from Page 1

union officials say, disruption to the schedules of students, particularly graduating seniors, would be kept to a minimum.

Without elaborating, Cal State administrators said they would have contingency plans to deal with any walkout.

"This is just what unions do," said Clara Potes-Fellow, a university spokeswoman. "There will be inter-

ruptions, of course, but that doesn't mean that the university will be shut down."

The union said 94 percent of more than 8,000 members who had voted on a strike favored authorizing it.

At the university's Dominguez Hills campus, in Carson, Travis was cheered by dozens of his members, who wore black T-shirts bearing the inscription "I don't want to strike, but I will."

"We are a faculty that's fed up," he told them, "and we are a faculty that's ready to walk off the job."

Many low- and middle-income students from around the state, about a third of them the first in their families to attend college, rely on the Cal State system for an education. But faculty salaries there lag far behind those at other universities and, the union says, have remained stagnant since 2002.

Moody's Investors Service reported this week that Cal State had cash reserves of \$1.2 billion, which union officials say gives the university the financial flexibility to resolve the dispute.

Administrators say that this money has been allocated to other purposes and cannot be used for teacher pay.

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Solution to Crossword

from page 7

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VOLANT	OLDFLAME
INAMORATA	FOSSA
DOT	MADRID
EMIR	POISES
RIVAL	SPECIE
SCENIC	KNELLS
DEATHS	ELIOT
SAP	UNHOOK
CURS	SITAR
ARIEL	STRATAGEM
ROOMETTE	ARCAINE
ARRIVALS	LINTEL
BASSINET	SPEEDS

Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

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3-4	\$1,400	5-10	\$1,300
11-20	\$900	21-32	\$700
33-40	\$500	41-64	\$300
65-64	\$100	Total:	\$25,000

AMATEUR DIVISION PRIZE SCHEDULE

Finish	Prize	Finish	Prize
1	\$1,500	2	\$1,000
3	\$750	4	\$400
5	\$300	6	\$200
7	\$150	8	\$100
9	\$100	10	\$50
Total:	\$5,000		

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Some Team Members Came to MIT Without Pistol Experience

Pistol, from Page 1

in an e-mail. The team members say this cohesiveness gives them a feeling of calm, knowing that they have the support of their teammates both competitively and emotionally.

Hart plays a big role as well, transforming MIT students, many of whom have no previous shooting experience, into nationally-competitive athletes. Both Lee and Nee came to MIT without any pistol experience and became national medal winners by their senior year. Hart says he actually prefers shooters with no experience because they have no bad habits to break.

The national competition itself is a marathon designed to measure as precisely as possible the shooting ability of the teams involved. Teams compete in three different events, testing their ability to shoot different types of pistols with different amounts of time to aim. For example, there is a rapid-fire .22-caliber event

where shooters have to make 5 shots in 10 seconds and an air pistol event where shooters have 75 minutes to shoot 40 shots.

The first event was free pistol, which took most of last Thursday and consisted of 60 shots in 2 hours with a .22. MIT completed this event in second place, 26 points behind Army. These people are good. The free pistol event is shot at targets 50 feet away and rewards 10 points for a bull's-eye, 9 for the second ring, 8 for the third ring, and so on. In 60 shots, Lee scored 518, for an 8.6 average per shot.

The Engineers started their comeback in the second event of the open competition, the standard pistol, shot on Friday. Again, they finished second, but this time they were ahead of Army and behind Navy, making the overall standings 4,141-4,140, with Navy one point ahead going into the final event, Saturday's air pistol. Lee, Nee, Edward S. Huo '08, and Fuzhou Hu '09 averaged 558 out of

600, good for the top team score in the event and enough to push MIT ahead of Army by 7 for the overall victory.

Next year the Engineers will lose Nee, Lee, and another top shooter, P. Raja Palaniappan '08. Despite the losses, Hart said in an e-mail that another national championship next year is not out of the question. "My philosophy is one shot at a time, one match at a time. But, the best way to get MIT students to do something is to tell them it cannot be done, so we'll see," he said.

Lee and Nee will leave with a slew of awards, including their individual and team medals from this year, medals won at previous national events, and All-American honors. They will also leave with their NRA membership card that they are required to buy to participate in the tournament. It's a running joke on the team that they are some of the few card-carrying members of the NRA in Cambridge.



YunJa Chen '07 lines up her shot at the National Rifle Association's Intercollegiate National Championship in West Point, N.Y. MIT defeated the U.S. Military Academy to take the National Championship.

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There are a few exceptions: 1) if you are in danger of physical harm by suicide, then your clinician can notify other people in order to keep you from harming yourself; 2) if someone else is in danger, then that person can be informed; 3) if you are involved in the abuse or neglect of a child or an elderly person, then your clinician is mandated to inform the appropriate agency.

I am applying for a job and the application asks if I have ever been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder. Does seeing someone at MHS mean I have to answer yes to this question?

Not necessarily. Many people are seen at MHS for things other than "psychiatric disorders." It is also important to remember that for most jobs a "yes" answer to that question usually just leads to a few more questions and the prospective employer possibly contacting the clinician at MHS.

I am applying for a job that requires a security clearance. Will the fact that I have been seen at MHS have an impact on my clearance?

This is an issue that comes up frequently. Usually the agency that is doing the clearance contacts MHS after notifying you (we need your permission to release information; usually the agency has already asked you to sign something to this effect).

The agency will ask your clinician for his or her professional opinion as to whether you are a risk to security. They are generally more interested in the clinician's overall assessment regarding your potential risk to security than in the details of your medical record.

MIT Mental Health Service

MIT Medical, E23-3rd Floor
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Walk-in hours 2-4 pm, Monday-Friday
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This is one of a series of mental health FAQs developed by SHAC (Student Health Advisory Committee) with input from MIT Medical's Mental Health Service. More questions and answers on mental health issues are available online.

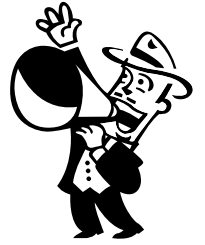
Go to <http://web.mit.edu/medical> to find answers to the following questions:

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- ▶ Does it cost anything to use the mental health service at MIT Medical?

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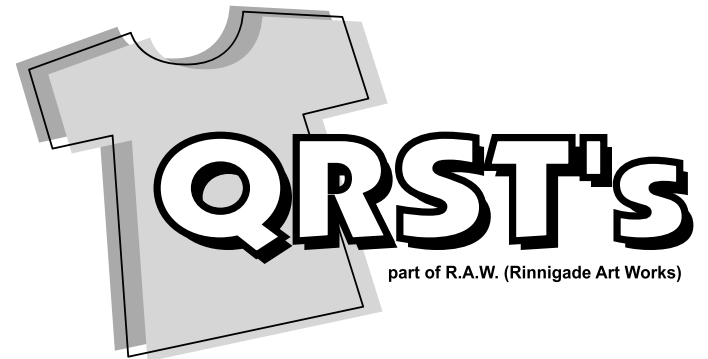
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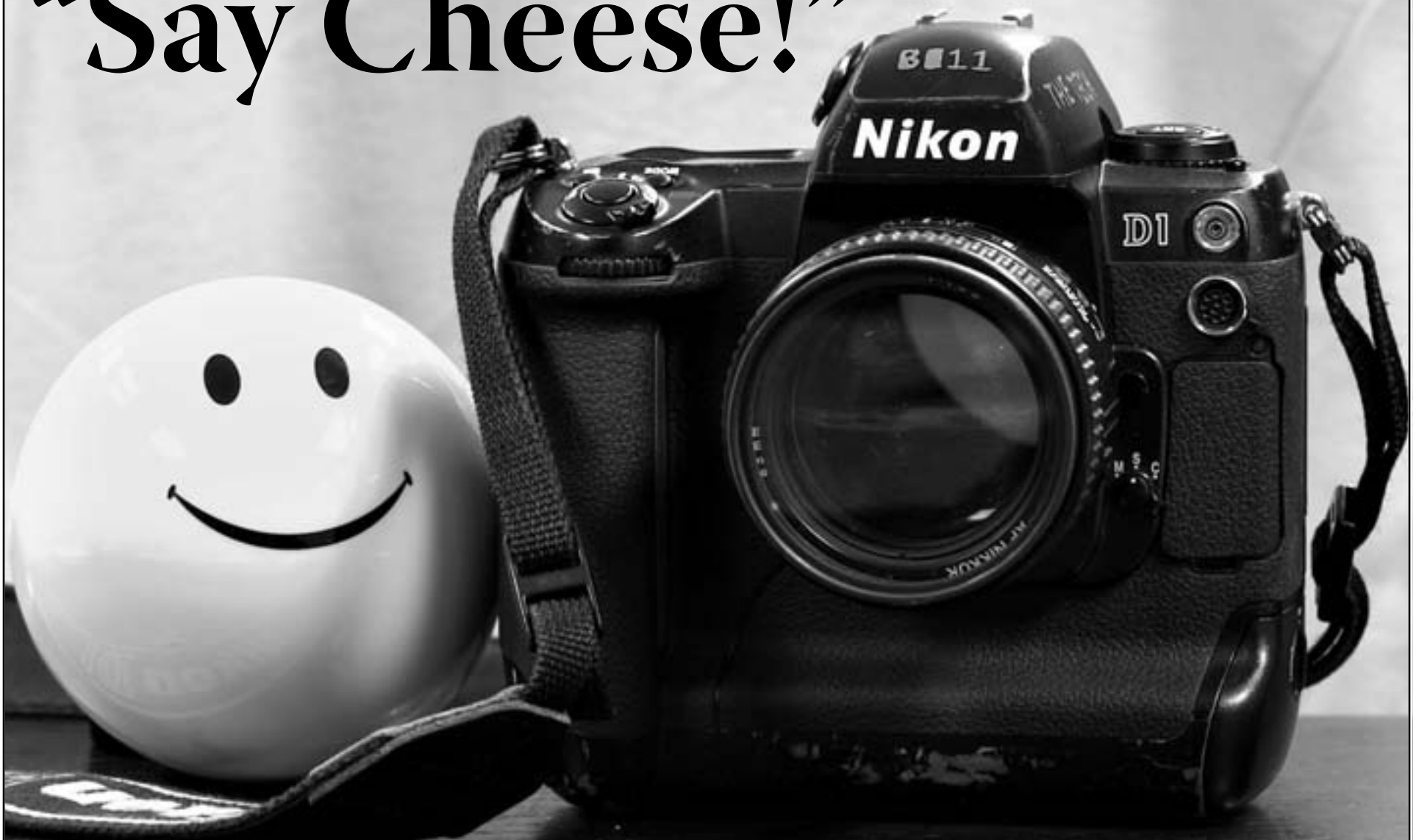


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Flynn Leads Offense With 6 Points, Kang Contributes 11 Saves

Lacrosse, from Page 16

into the second half as she gave the Engineers their largest lead of the day, 8-3, after 26 seconds elapsed. On the ensuing draw control, Keene State's Tully registered the first goal of her career. The game was scoreless from there until Meagan Moran's goal with 21:12 left on the clock. The Owls closed the gap to two (8-6) three minutes later on Tully's second goal of half.

A defensive battle ensued for the remainder of the game until He set up Samantha F. O'Keefe '09 for

an insurance goal with 27 seconds left to play.

Watson picked up a team-high five groundballs to go along with three draw controls and two caused turnovers. Ming Leong '09, He, and O'Keefe each added three groundballs as Flynn totaled three draw controls. Goaltender HeeJay Kang '07 collected 11 saves for the Engineers.

MIT will travel to West Palm Beach for spring break matches against Hartwick College and SUNY Potsdam on Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27.

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SPORTS

Volleyball Wins in Four Games; Sets Records for Digs, Blocks

By James Zorich
STAFF WRITER

MIT men's volleyball lost the first game to Johnson & Wales University Wednesday night at Rockwell Cage, but calmly and methodically won the next three for a 26-30, 30-25, 30-22, 30-28 victory.

On their way to the triumph, two Engineers set significant milestones for the men's volleyball program. With a personal-best 20 digs, Ryan G. Dean '08 now stands alone as the Institute's all-time leader with 815 career digs, while six-foot, seven-inch Michael Demyttenaere '10 contributed five blocks to set a new MIT record for blocks in a season with 140.

Demyttenaere and fellow middle

hitter Thomas S. Pollom '09 are already well on their way to rewriting the record books in career blocks. Despite being underclassmen, both are over halfway towards the career record.

The fourth game of the match was the most exciting, as MIT (25-5, 10-0) trailed for the majority of the game before taking its first lead at 25-24. The lead widened to 26-24 on a controversial point when the referee overruled the line judge, ruling that a ball was not tipped on its way out of bounds. This appeared to inspire the Wildcats (8-15, 4-4), who were able to fight their way back to a 27-27 tie, but Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 provided the final two kills of the match for MIT to avoid a fifth game.

Pamidimukkala led the Engineers with 24 kills, as his spikes often met little resistance from the Johnson & Wales blockers. He finished with a huge .431 hitting percentage, followed closely by Kenneth K. Rosche '08, who had a season-best 14 kills and a .428 hit-

ting percentage.

The first three games of the match provided little drama. In the first game, the Wildcats took the lead for good at 5-4, as the Engineers were slightly lethargic coming out of the gate. MIT's hitters attempted a number of finesse tips and seemed to be trying to place their spikes, and it was not until the second game that Tech's power game took over.

Johnson & Wales never held a lead in the second game. After a 10-10 tie, the Engineers kept the Wildcats at bay, maintaining at least a two-point advantage for the rest of the game following a Pamidimukkala kill for a 13-11 lead.

In the third game, the Engineers took advantage of a number of unforced errors by the Wildcats to turn a 20-18 lead into a comfortable 30-22 win.

The Engineers, ranked No. 11 nationally, will take their unblemished NorthEast Collegiate Volleyball Association record to the conference tournament next weekend.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, March 24, 2007 Sailing Dinghy Cup	9:00 a.m., Charles River
Sunday, March 25, 2007 Sailing Dinghy Cup	9:00 a.m., Charles River
Saturday, March 31, 2007 Sailing Oberg Trophy Softball vs. Smith College (Doubleheader) Men's Lacrosse vs. UMass-Boston	9:00 a.m., Charles River 12:00 p.m., Briggs Field 1:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field
Sunday, April 1, 2007 Sailing Oberg Trophy	9:00 a.m., Charles River

MIT Women's Lacrosse Beats Keene State 9-6, Flynn Leading Scorer

By Mindy Brauer
DAPER STAFF

The MIT women's lacrosse team beat Keene State College 9-6 on Tuesday for their first win of the season.

Casey M. Flynn '10 led all scorers with six points, including five goals, as the Engineers improved to 1-1 on the year. Michelle Mazzotta and Dene Tully each scored twice for the Owls (0-1).

Mazzotta opened the scoring 2:08 into the contest with an unassisted strike. Flynn tied the game five minutes later and then connected on a feed from Lily He '09 to give MIT the lead at 18:34. Just over a minute later, the Owls' La-

naya Nelson evened the score at two.

The Engineers responded with three unanswered goals in a span of four minutes to open up a 5-2 lead. Flynn started the spurt, which was followed by a free position goal from Laura C. Watson '08 and a shot from He that trickled into the net.

Mazzotta narrowed the Owls' deficit to two (5-3) with 11:38 remaining in the half before Flynn contributed to MIT's final goals of the frame as she set up Watson and then converted a free position attempt for what proved to be the game-winning goal.

Flynn carried the momentum

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Daily Meditation
"Make My love thy treasure,
and cherish it even as thy very
sight and life." --Bahá'u'lláh
MIT Bahá'í Association

Study on reading and dyslexia at MIT

MIT (John Gabrieli lab) is currently conducting research on reading difficulties. We are looking for adults (ages 18-35) with reading difficulties. Individuals with a previous diagnosis of dyslexia are especially welcome.

Participants will be compensated \$20/hr.

For more information please contact Christina at gablabbstudy@gmail.com or at 617-324-2898

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